



## EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



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# A farewell to Big News

**D**on't get too exercised about the latest case of blatant news media bias and incompetence — Dan Rather and CBS News using obviously fake "documents" to unfairly tarnish the military service of a sitting president. After all, Christians have been the recipients of the news media's unbridled wrath for years. Remember the Washington Post article that described Christians as easily led, like sheep?

While the news media's bias has been heavily and convincingly documented for quite some time by more than a few experts and organizations, what should upset us is CBS/Rather's undisguised attempt to influence the election of the next president of the United States. That's serious.

The news media's apologists will, in the end, chalk up this little incident to deadline pressure or intense competition between networks or inexperienced employees or the moon's cycle or something other than the real root cause — news media bias. Make no mistake, however. CBS/Rather intended to influence the presidential election.

Where's the proof? Look no farther than the "heads-up" telephone call before the report aired from Mary Mapes, the CBS veteran who produced the report, to Joe Lockhart, a high official in the campaign of the opposing presidential candidate. When Mapes and Lockhart both deny there was any coordination between CBS News and the campaign, they must think we were all born yesterday.

In addition, other news media outlets have reported the CBS and Rather disregarded the concerns of the experts they hired to verify the documents' authenticity, in some cases even relying on hurried telephone conversations where the experts were not allowed to see the papers.

Lastly, CBS and Rather have been forced to admit that they don't know the whereabouts of the originals, depending instead

on the word of a highly-questionable third party who said he got the documents from someone else. That's right; CBS and Rather rushed the report to broadcast without having possession of the originals or even being able to nail down exactly where the documents came from.

A fellow would have to be a blind ideologue to accept the intellectually dishonest pretense of such a report, and the subsequent CBS/Rather denials of any intention to influence the presidential election. It's clear that's what was going on. A 16-year-old reporter on a high-school newspaper staff could see through this artifice.

Thankfully, this journalistic disgrace was exposed by the explosion of information and interaction brought on by the Internet. People began talking and sharing their opinions about the report at the speed of the World Wide Web. It wasn't long before the gaping holes in the report were revealed, and unlike the old days when the three gatekeeper networks were the only way to get news, CBS couldn't restrict what we read and understood about this case.

As the CBS/Rather debacle reveals, we are witnessing the death rattle of the all-powerful oligarchies that for more than a century have controlled the news that Americans receive. It's clear that Americans don't want to be force-fed one point of view, and they don't want to be lied to and deceived for political gain.

The genie is out of the bottle. The Information Superhighway has changed everything. It has revolutionized the pro-

"HELP! I'M BEING  
MARINATED IN  
PROPAGANDA!"



duction and distribution of information to the point that the three old-line broadcast networks are increasingly unnecessary. Their business model may have been efficient — and hugely profitable — in its time, but it's on the way out.

Thank goodness.

Christians, so often maligned by the news media in recent years, can hasten the demise of Big News by turning off the television (which would have a positive effect on almost every other area of our lives, too) and letting commercial sponsors know that we have abandoned those old, one-sided leftovers from another era and will henceforth be making up our own minds.

It's about time Christians thought for themselves. Past time, actually.

## GUEST OPINION:

### *The New Gnosticism*

By Alan Branch  
V.P., Student Development  
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30 years, a number of academics have argued forcefully that Gnosticism was unfairly rejected by the church.

For example, about 10 years ago, participants in The Jesus Seminar published The Five Gospels which argued for the inclusion of the Gnostic work The Gospel of Thomas into the canon of Scripture. More recently, Princeton professor Elaine Pagels has published Beyond Belief: The Secret Gospel of Thomas.

A tireless advocate for the Gnostic "gospels" and Thomas in particular, Pagels argues that the church affirmed the complete deity and humanity of Christ for pragmatic reasons not grounded in the life and ministry of Jesus of Nazareth. The Da Vinci Code makes a similar theory available for a wide audience.

Prior to 1945, most of what we knew about Gnosticism came from the church fathers who opposed them. However, in that year an ancient Gnostic library was discovered in the Egyptian desert which contained several of the Gnostic "gospels." Known as the Nag Hammadi library, these works have basically confirmed the church fathers' description of Gnosticism. In short, when they told us that Gnostics were heretics, they were telling the truth!

Contrary to Dan Brown, Elaine Pagels, and The Jesus Seminar, these "gospels" were not rejected by the church out of secret agenda to consolidate power. The Gnostic gospels were rejected because they are not true. They are forgeries that include just enough real data from the life of Jesus to dupe the uninformed. Essentially, pagan

thought "hijacked" Christian terminology and attempted to use Jesus as the vehicle to transport their worldview.

The assertion that Jesus was viewed as a mere mortal prior to the Council of Nicea is perhaps the most obviously false claim made in The Da Vinci Code. The entire New Testament is a testimony to Christ's deity. All four of the canonical Gospels are dated from the first century and all four reference Christ's deity.

The pagan worldview of Dan Brown has corresponding ethical implications. For example, at one point in The Da Vinci Code, Langdon argues that sexual immorality as part of pagan worship is really sacred and holy. In contrast, the Scriptures teach that such gross immorality is a reflection of the radical autonomy at the heart of the fall (Romans 1:18-32).

Gnosticism is back. The overwhelming biblical illiteracy that pervades our society will make more people susceptible to its claims. In contrast to the supposed "secrets" of Gnosticism, we have a Gospel based on what was "seen" and "looked at" and "touched" (1 John 1:1).

Branch's commentary appears courtesy of Baptist Press.

# Iraqi Christians fleeing Muslim extremists

AMMAN, Jordan (BP) — A quiet but steady hemorrhaging of Iraq's ancient Christian presence is underway and little is being done to stem the flow, Compass Direct news service reported Oct. 6. Written threats, kidnappings, bombings, and murder by Muslim extremists are driving thousands of Iraq's minority Christian population out of their ancestral homeland, fleeing for safety to neighboring Jordan and Syria.

"The Christians are experiencing an absence of leadership," Hala Hikmat, a recent arrival from Baghdad who has joined thousands of her countrymen in Syria, told Compass Direct. "We have no leaders who are communicating our urgent needs to the authorities, so consequently each person has to take care of themselves." Hikmat said their urgent needs are for protection and for someone to take a stand on Christians' behalf.

A string of church bombings in August and September caused 30,000-40,000 Christians to flee the country, Compass Direct said, according to estimates by Iraqi government and church officials. Hundreds more families who are part of Iraq's 750,000 Christians are leaving each week.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has said the figures are too high, and UNHCR offices in Amman and Damascus acknowledge it is hard to know exactly how many Iraqi Christians are currently in Jordan and Syria, Compass Direct reported.

Of the 4,000 Iraqi families officially registered as refugees with the agency in Damascus, more than half are Christians. It is believed that there are larger numbers of Iraqis in Syria because it is cheaper to live there than in Jordan. Iraqi Christians also said they have stronger cultural and spiritual



THRIVING, THREATENED — More than 200 people gather each week at the National Evangelical Baptist Church in Baghdad, which opened in January. Reports indicate people are accepting Christ and being baptized each week at the first Baptist church ever established in Iraq, and a second church will start soon. However, Muslim extremists have set their sights on the destruction of Iraq's ancient Christian community. (BP special photo courtesy of National Evangelical Baptist Church)

ties to Syria. Syrian authorities estimate there are about 300,000 Iraqis in the country.

"The Syrian government has been extremely generous to the Iraqis," said Abdelhamed El Ouali, the UNHCR head in Damascus, according to Compass Direct. "It has kept the borders open without political considerations. And it believes it has a sacred duty to allow Iraqis who need safety to stay as long as necessary. But I am afraid if the numbers continue to rise dramatically without any international assistance, the situation here could change."

A member of Iraq's Chaldean Catholic community refused to give her name to Compass Direct for fear of reprisals against family members, but she said she lived near one of the churches that was bombed in Baghdad last August.

"I received a letter threatening me. It also claimed that the church where I served would explode while I was inside unless I paid \$300,000," she told Compass Direct. "We are poor people and do not have such money,

so I took my husband and my son and we fled to Syria."

The synchronized bombings of five churches on August 1 and a car bombing at a Baghdad church on September 10 sent shock waves through the Christian community. Iraqi officials blamed terror mastermind Abu Musab al-Zarqawi.

A university student visiting Syria from Baghdad said she wanted to attend mass at the Chaldean Church of St. Terese of Little Jesus while she was in Damascus because there was little opportunity to worship back home without fear, according to Compass Direct.

"We can't attend services because all of the churches are threatened with explosions," she said. "No one knows what will happen now."

Most of Iraq's Christians are Chaldean eastern-rite Catholics who are autonomous from Rome but recognize the pope's authority. Other Christian denominations in Iraq include Roman and Syrian Catholics, Assyrians, Greek, Syrian and Armenian Orthodox, Presbyterians, Anglicans and evangelicals.

One Baptist woman from Baghdad who also refused to give her name said she had taken to wearing a head covering when going outside, simply to protect herself and her children, Compass Direct reported.

"It is very risky now to go out on the streets in Iraq without a scarf on your head," she said.

"When I dared to do it, people shouted at me from a passing car that I had to respect Islamic traditions in a country where Muslims are the majority."

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THE  
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FRONT PAGE

THE BAPTIST  
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## North Korea cited

WASHINGTON (BP) — The U.S. House of Representatives has passed the North Korean Human Rights Act, providing final congressional approval for legislation to aid people living under one of the world's most repressive regimes. The House agreed to the bill without opposition during a voice vote Oct. 4, closing a week of quick action as members of Congress prepare to go home to campaign for the November election. The Senate approved the measure by unanimous consent Sept. 28. President Bush is expected to sign the bill into law. North Korea is one of eight governments labeled by the State Department as "countries of particular concern," a designation reserved for the most severe violators of religious freedom. In Korea since 1995, human rights officials have reported. The newly approved legislation, H.R. 4011, establishes the position of special envoy for North Korean human rights and calls for U.S. negotiations with the regime to be held to human rights progress. It also authorizes the president to provide funds for nonprofit groups in order to advance human rights and democracy in the country. It seeks to increase protection for North Korean refugees. Among other provisions, the bill requires verification that humanitarian and non-humanitarian aid is used for non-political purposes. The Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission and other members of a diverse coalition working for the bill's passage applauded the congressional action. The House originally passed the measure in July. The Senate amended that version, adding language designating the special envoy as one of its additions.

10 years ago

Howell W. Todd, president of Mississippi College, announces the school is awarded a one million dollar undergraduate grant from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute. The grant will be used to continue undergraduate research opportunities and to expand training programs in biomedicine.

20 years ago

Care Critters, an eight-member puppet team from Calvary Church, Lamar Association, returns from a Montana mission trip, where they taught two daily Backyard Bible Clubs and performed puppet shows at evening revival services.

30 years ago

Mississippi leads the Southern Baptist Convention in the number of Youth Weeks reported. To date, 124 Youth Week reports were received by the Training Union department, which was 52 more than the second place state.

Looking back

**WHAT CAN YOU DO  
WHEN THERE IS NOTHING  
YOU CAN DO?**

I had been in North Mississippi preaching and was checking out of the motel to come to Jackson the day before Hurricane Francis was to hit the Coast. As I checked out I asked the lady at the desk, "How are you doing today?" She said, "Terrible." I said, "I'm sorry." She said, "Nobody wants my job." I said, "Really, what is the matter?" She said, "I have been screamed at, cussed at, and called every name you can think of and that is just in the last hour." The problem - well, the problem was that everybody coming from the Coast areas from Louisiana to Florida was looking for a place to stay and there was no more room in the inn. I said, "What do they expect you to do?" She said, "Most of them expect me to build two more stories on the motel by tonight. Some of them want to know why we didn't plan better and build larger as though the only reason we exist is to house hurricane evacuees once every two or three years."

It was obvious that she was uptight and frustrated, and it was also clear that she had been dealing with one person after another who was in the same condition. It can create a tense environment in a hurry. I told her I was sorry, I would get out of her way, and I would be praying for her. As I walked out and got in my car there was a caravan of six cars, a family group that had driven all night from South Louisiana, looking for a

**YOU CAN RESPOND  
RIGHT NOW!**

*Simply share the following  
prayer with God in  
your own words:*

1. Lord, I admit that I need you.  
*(I have sinned.)*
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death.  
*(I repent.)*
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you.  
*(I believe in Jesus.)*
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him.  
*(I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)*

*But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name (John 1:12).*

*If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.*



# Directions

**Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer  
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board**

place to stay. Knowing what they were about to encounter, I started to stop them and warn them. I thought maybe I ought to run back in and warn that lady at the desk realizing what she was about to face. I did neither and was confident that there would be dozens of others who would come through during the day. Bless her heart and those folks and sometimes you and me. We all struggle at times wondering what to do when there is nothing that you can do. You know there is something that we can do even when there is nothing that we can do.

Let me suggest that for one thing we can sympathize. I am not just talking about pity. I mean genuine sympathetic feelings that show concern for the needs of someone else. They have a helpful, healing, uplifting, and encouraging impact on lives and that my friends is a good thing. My dad died over 20 years ago, but I can remember as though it were yesterday the people who came, called, or contacted me to say, "I feel for you, and I feel with you. Your loss is my loss." I never realized how much that meant. I had often expressed that kind of sympathy and my

expressions were genuine, sincere, and I wanted them to know that I cared. I sometimes wondered if I was getting through. Well, for me I can tell you people got through to my heart. Deacons touched my life. Church members said and did very special things. Friends and other family members expressed sympathy that still resonates in my heart.

Another thing that you can do when there is nothing really to do is to be nice. The Holy Spirit expressed heavenly wisdom when He had Paul to write in Ephesians 4, "Be ye kind one to another." Kindness and niceness never made any situation worse. While at the same time it has made some of the worst situations much better. Our fleshly nature, which usually becomes a very sinful nature, is always geared up on its hind legs ready to fight fire with fire. Be mean to me and I will be mean to you. Attack me and I will retaliate. Say an unkind word and I can think of one four times as vicious to cut you down. My guess is that most of us know that in our heads but have never quite fully understood that the only way it translates into our hearts is by the power and grace of God. God

knows that the gifts of kindness and niceness in the most hostile of situations are gifts of transforming grace that will not only change the situation, but they will radically touch the lives of those around us.

One other thing that we can do when there is really nothing that we can do is to seek, ask, and inquire if there is anything that we can do. If you are going to ask, be ready to act and do. Just being available, having a servant's heart, offering to lift a burden, or to carryout some chore is a tremendous thing. It was impossible for the lady at the motel desk to smile because she was so discouraged by her life and job. Finally, I said to her, "I tell you what let's do." She said, "What?" I said, "Let me come back there and take your place and just do your job and talk to some of these people and you take a break." She said, "You don't want my job!" I said, "No, I am not going to keep your job, but just let me come back there and talk to some of these people coming in the door." For the first time she smiled and said, "No, I don't think you need to do that." I said, "Well, I will be glad to." She said, "No, I will be alright." With a spark of renewed energy she waited on the next customer, the next car, and the next caravan that would be coming down the road even though she would have to say, "I am sorry, but we do not have any more rooms."

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## Volunteers return home after long activation

**By William H. Perkins Jr.  
Editor**

The Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief Task Force has returned to Mississippi from hurricane-ravaged Florida after being activated in August, September, and October to assist storm victims, according to Don Gann, consultant in the Men's Ministry Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board in Jackson.

The Task Force's fully self-contained mass feeding unit, which is based on a tractor-trailer rig packed with commercial cooking gear and thousands of meals, is in its berth at Central Hills Retreat near Kosciusko, and the Mississippi Baptist volunteers who staffed the mobile kitchen are resting at their homes, Gann said.

The Task Force was activated on August 14 after Hurricane Charley devastated Florida, and prepared meals from the parking lot of First Church in Arcadia Fla. until September 1. The Task Force returned to Mississippi but was reactivated for Hurricane Ivan on September 14 and deployed to Pascagoula, Meridian, and eventually Gulf Shores, Alabama. When Hurricane Jeanne struck Florida,

the Task Force moved to the parking lot of Westside Church in Ft. Pierce, Fla., and prepared meals until October 8.

"I was pleased with our folks and their 'can do' attitude. When they weren't preparing meals, they were looking for other ways to assist the storm victims," Gann said.

While stationed at Westside Church, Gann said, the

Mississippi Baptists volunteers on the scene attended the church's services. "The congregation would give us a standing ovation whenever we were in one of their services," he recalled.

Gann also said he and the members of the Mississippi Baptist unit watched as other disaster relief organizations ran short of volunteers, due to the extended deployments brought

on by the unusually active hurricane season. "We weren't even close to running out of Mississippi Baptist volunteers," Gann said, with a big smile.

For more information on the Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief Task Force, contact the MBC Men's Ministry Department at (601) 292-3334. E-mail: [cwright@mbcb.org](mailto:cwright@mbcb.org). Web site: [www.mbc.org](http://www.mbc.org).

## Motion pending to amend MBC Plan of Organization and Action

Article XXII of the Mississippi Baptist Convention (MBC) Plan of Organization and Action states that the Plan may be amended in the same way as the MBC Constitution. Article VII, Section 2, of the MBC Constitution mandates that proposed amendments be published in The Baptist Record, to fulfill that requirement. The Baptist Record offers publication of the following motion made at the 2003 annual session which would require amendment of the MBC Plan of Organization and Action and which will be brought before messengers to the 2004 annual session of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. By this publication, no endorsement or opposition is implied by either The Baptist Record or the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. The following motion applies to Article XI, Section 4, of the MBC Plan of Organization and Action.

Section 4. The Foundation shall be supported by an annual allocation from the receipts of the Cooperative Program as administered by the Convention Board subject to direction of the Convention from funds designated by the donors thereof to the Foundation, and/or from cost recovery charges assessed to assets managed by the Foundation, as administered by the Foundation's trustees.

## JUST FOR THE RECORD

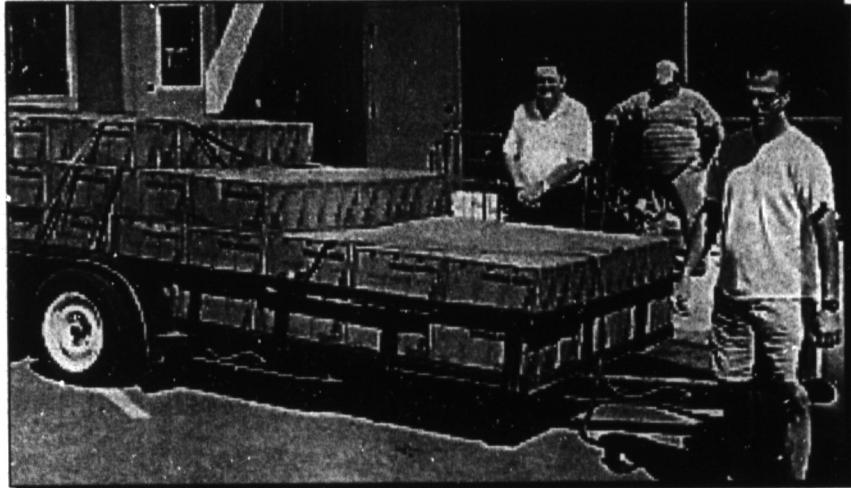
Pleasant Hill Church, Lowndes County, honored Roy Myers, a member of Calvary Church, West Point, for 50 years of preaching recently. A reception followed. Myers currently serves as interim pastor of Pleasant Hill.



Myers

The RAs of Rocky Creek Church, Lucedale, attended camp at Central Hills Retreat July 5-9. RAs that attended camp are Conner Davis, Ryan Stringfellow, Clay Parker, Hayden Welford, Robert Martin, Forrest McLeod, and J.D. Mixon.

Utica Church, Utica, participated in a strategic focus city campaign in New Hope, New York. They worked with the



Rob Moore and Frank Edmonson III



Strategic Focus Campaign participants, Utica Church, Utica



Lone Pine Church, Canton



Ben James, pastor and Linda & Jack Hollingsworth

Chinese Promise Church, Brooklyn, July 28-August 1.

Lone Pine Church, Canton, gave shelter to 26 family members from the Gulf Coast fleeing Hurricane Ivan. The church ladies cooked meals and supplied needs during their stay. James Buie is pastor.

The RAs of Salem Church, Collins, raised money to purchase a TV/DVD/VCR for one of the Seamen's Centers at the Port of Pascagoula. Pictured are the boys with Adrain Turner and his wife Frances.

Jack and Linda Hollingsworth of Utica Church, Utica, have begun a campground ministry. They travel to churches by RV doing revivals and concerts and hold worship services at campgrounds where they stay. Jack has six CD projects available. For more information, contact (601) 885-9513 or jhollingsworthsr@aol.com. Pictured (from left) are Ben



McBee Church Note Burning, Columbus



Brad, Barry, & Annéte Rinehart and Nicolle Brackett



RAs of Salem Church, Collins

James, pastor, and the Hollingsworths.

SSG Barry Rinehart, home on furlough from Iraq, was the guest speaker at Concord Church, Benton-Tippah Association, August 22. Pictured (from left) are Brad Rinehart, Rinehart, his wife Annette, and Nicolle Brackett.

Cooperville Church, Morton, recently purchased and delivered 1,100 gallons of bottled water for Hurricane Ivan victims in Thomasville, Ala. Pictured are Rob Moore at the rear of the trailer and Frank Edmonson III at the front. Frank Edmonson is pastor.

McBee Church, Columbus, held a noteburning August 29 for their existing sanctuary property. Pictured (from left) are Glenn Hartley, Ray Oglesby, Elton Harrell, John McNorton, Jimmy Ray, pastor, Durell Homan, Eddie Barton, and Bryan Windle.

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Ed McAtee,  
age 78, dies  
in Memphis

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP)—Ed McAtee, a prominent Southern Baptist who played a leading role in bidding the Religious Right movement, died Oct. 5 in

Memphis. McAtee, who was 78, aided Jerry Falwell in founding the Moral Majority during the 1970s.

McAtee played a key role in introducing evangelicals to Ronald Reagan in 1980 and remained a leading figure in the Religious Right over the years.

McAtee, a member of Bellevue Church in suburban Memphis, was a former sales executive with Colgate-Palmolive who left the business world after nearly 30 years to become a Christian activist. He was a Memphis native who accepted Christ as his Lord and Savior at the age of 14. He had been improving after treatment for cancer but died unexpectedly amid a lighthearted exchange with his wife Faye at their home, the Memphis Commercial Appeal newspaper reported.

Funeral services were held October 8 at Bellevue Church with burial in Roberson Cemetery in Memphis. In addition to his wife, McAtee is survived by two sons, Edward II and Tim, and six grandchildren.

## HOMECOMINGS & REVIVALS

**Bentonia, Yazoo Association:** Homecoming October 17; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; dinner fellowship at noon; Don Jones, guest speaker; D.J. Speckner, pastor.

### Staff Changes

Moss Hill Church, New Albany, has called Charlie Ransier as interim pastor.

**Matt Celoria,** formerly of Fort Worth, Texas, was called as full-time minister of music at Wade Church, Moss Point, July 12. He traveled with the Celoria Singers for 10 years.

**George W. McNeese** accepted the call of pastor at Lincoln Road Church, Hattiesburg, effective October 3. McNeese most recently served as pastor of First Church, Sanford. He is a graduate of Samford University and Southwestern Seminary.

Dumas Church, Dumas, called Scott Hudson as pastor effective September 12. He comes from Mt. Pisgah Church, Carrollton. Hudson attended Blue Mountain College.

Sunrise Church, Leake County, recently welcomed David Addy as pastor.

Addy

**Gooden Lake, Belzoni:** Homecoming October 17; worship, 10:30 a.m.; lunch will follow; Marty Wilson, former pastor, preaching; music by local talent; Bob Gilliland, pastor.

**First, Madison:** 115th Anniversary October 31; worship, 8:45 and 10:45 a.m.; fellowship, 10 a.m.; memorial unveiling and chapel tour, 10:20 a.m.; Penn's Fish on site food purchases, 3-6 p.m.; Fall Festival, 4-6 p.m.; Paid in Full concert, 6:30 p.m.; morning services will include a tribute to James and Cissa Richardson; child care available; for more information, call (601) 856-6177.

**Blythe Creek, Mathiston:** Homecoming October 17; Sunday School 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; noon meal; afternoon service, 1:30 p.m.; Legacy of Faith, singing; Mike Adcock, pastor.

**Carey Chapel, Red Banks:** Homecoming October 17; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; dinner on the grounds will follow; Carl Teel, guest speaker; Servant Hearts, afternoon singing; O.E. Langner, Jr., pastor.

**Poplar Springs, Mendenhall:** Fall Revival October 17-20; Sunday, 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Kara Blackard, Wheeler Grove, Corinth, evangelist; Jay Parker, music.

**Mt. Vernon, Newton:** Homecoming October 17; worship, 10:45 a.m.; lunch will fol-

low; afternoon singing, 1:30 p.m.; Kenneth Harrison, former pastor, guest speaker; Steve Pouncey, pastor; William Savell, minister of music.

**Mt. Moriah, Bogue Chitto:** October 27-29 and 31; Wed.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Sunday, Old Fashioned Day, 11 a.m.; Ronnie Robinson, former pastor, evangelist; Tom Walsh, McComb, music leader; Danny Moss, pastor; for more information, call (601) 833-8858.

**East Louisville, Louisville:** 60th Anniversary October 23-24; Sat., registration and fellowship 3-5 p.m., One Way Singers reunion concert 5 p.m., and dinner following; Sunday, 10:30 a.m. and covered dish luncheon at noon; Betty Charlton, directing One Way Singers; Doug Hubbard, Jr., music director; Ken Anderson, former pastor, preaching; Keith Dendy, pastor.

**Georgetown, Georgetown:** Homecoming October 31; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; a covered dish lunch will follow; singing, 1:30 p.m.; Todd Stewart, preaching.

**Southway, Brookhaven:** Revival October 17-20; Sunday, 10:45 a.m. and 6 p.m. with a fellowship following; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; James Messer, evangelist; Todd McDaniels, worship leader; Leon Wallace, pastor.

**Ackerman, Ackerman:** Fall Revival October 24-27; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., Bible Study and breakfast 6:30-7:30 a.m., and 7 p.m.; Ben Yarber, evangelist; Steve and Becky Carver, music; Danny Irvin, pastor.

**Jayess, Jayess:** 95th Anniversary October 17; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; lunch at noon; singing will follow; Tim Rayborn, speaker; All 4 Given and local singers, music.

**First, Lyman:** Revival October 24-27; 7 p.m. nightly; Dean Register, guest preacher; Michael Gilreath, music; Garland Boyd, pastor.

**Grace, Decatur:** Revival October 17-20; Sunday, 10:45 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Kevin Meador, evangelist; Betty Chaney, music; Richard Ethridge, pastor.

**Liberty, Newton County:** Homecoming October 24; worship, 10 a.m.; a potluck dinner will follow; Joey Lang, pastor, and J.B. Costilow, former pastor, speakers; all are invited.

**First, Houlka:** Revival October 17-20; Sunday, 10:50 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Kevin Waldrop, speaker; David Blackwell, pastor; all are invited.

### COLLEGE NEWS

Mississippi College professor Bill Stark became the second American in the history of the fifteenth International Symposium on Plecoptera to receive the Lifetime Achievement Award for Outstanding Lifelong Work and Contributions to Plecopterology. The award was presented in August 2004 at the University of Montana Flathead Lake Biological Station.



Stark

This was a significant honor for Stark's dedication to insect research, particularly in the area of stoneflies.

Concert pianist Eric Himy will perform at William Carey College October 21 at 7:30 p.m. in the Smith Auditorium, Hattiesburg campus. His program includes works by Rachmaninov, Debussy, Chopin, von Weber, Wagner, and Liszt. Tickets are \$10 for regular admission and \$5 for students. Tickets will be available at the door or can be reserved by calling (601) 318-6175. Himy will conduct a master class on October 22 from 9:30-11:30 a.m. in the Lucile Parker Gallery. The class is free and open to the public. For more information on Himy, visit [www.erichimy.com](http://www.erichimy.com).



Himy

Tickets are \$10 for regular admission and \$5 for students. Tickets will be available at the door or can be reserved by calling (601) 318-6175. Himy will conduct a master class on October 22 from 9:30-11:30 a.m. in the Lucile Parker Gallery. The class is free and open to the public. For more information on Himy, visit [www.erichimy.com](http://www.erichimy.com).

According to the 2005 Edition of U.S. News and World Report's America's Best Colleges, Blue Mountain College ranks in the Top Tier

category for the Best Comprehensive Colleges-Bachelor's Institutions in this category focus on undergraduate education and offer a range of degree programs in the liberal arts, which account for fewer than half of their bachelor's degrees, and in professional fields such as business, nursing, and education. Bettye Coward is president.

James Meaders, chair of the music department of Mississippi College since 2002, has been chosen as the Arts and Sciences Distinguished Lecturer for 2004-05. Meaders' lecture is entitled The Choral Pursuit: Blending Art and Story. The program will be held October 26 in Provine Chapel at 7 p.m. A reception will follow in Alumni Hall. Admission is free. The public is invited. Meaders serves as minister of music of Northside Church, Clinton.

The Christian Legal Society of the Mississippi College School of Law, Jackson, met September 1. The Secretary of State for Mississippi, Eric Clark, was the speaker.

The Balkan Women will be presented October 14-16 at 7:30 p.m. in the O.L. Quave Theatre, Hattiesburg campus, William Carey College. The play is directed by professor emeritus O.L. Quave. Seats may be reserved by calling (601) 318-6221. The box office is open daily from 1-4 p.m. beginning October 11. Regular admission is \$10, senior citizens and military personnel are \$8, and the cost for students is \$5.

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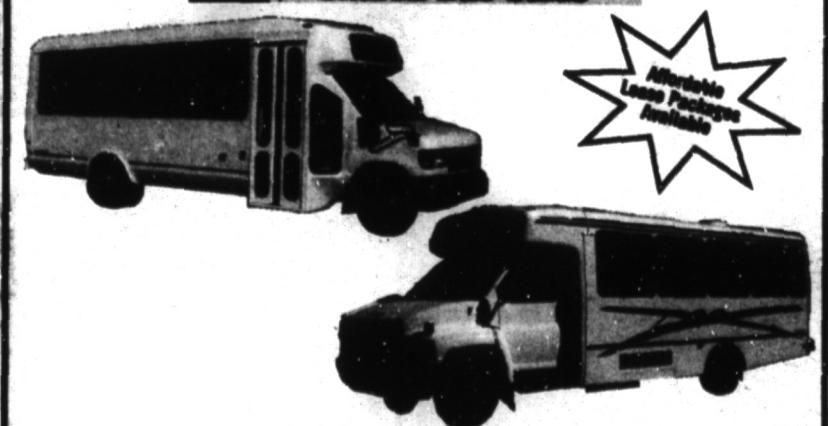


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October 14, 2004  
A supplement to the  
*Baptist Record* produced by  
William Carey College in  
celebration of its Jubilee.

# William Carey College

October, 2004



Dear Friends,

William Carey College thanks Mississippi Baptists for fifty years of faithful support. With you as a reliable foundation, William Carey College has provided quality higher education in a Christian context for 16,512 graduates since 1954.

In November 1953, you voted to move our predecessor, Mississippi Woman's College, to coeducational status and to continue your support. On April 20, 1954, the board of trustees renamed the college as William Carey College in honor of Baptists' pioneer in missions, who sets our ongoing example for the college's mission to develop every student's "scholarship, leadership, and service."

We are excited about the future of William Carey College and would be honored to share our vision of Christian faith and academic excellence with you.

With thanks to God and Mississippi Baptists,

*Larry Kennedy*

Larry W. Kennedy  
President

498 Tuscan Avenue, Hattiesburg, Mississippi 39401  
(601) 318-6051 • (800) 962-5991  
[www.wmcarey.edu](http://www.wmcarey.edu)

October 14, 2004

Dr. Larry W. Kennedy, President  
William Carey College  
498 Tuscan Avenue  
Hattiesburg, MS 39401-5461

Dear Dr. Kennedy, Faculty, Student, Alumni and Friends,

It is with great joy that I write this letter of congratulations as you celebrate 50 years of being William Carey. Mississippi Baptists can be grateful for the half century of service, teaching, influencing, and enlarging the kingdom of God. In these 50 years never has the work been so strong, the testimony been so clear, the standard been so high, and the future been so bright as right now.

Dr. Kennedy, I thank you for the love that you have for the Lord that has been translated into a special love for touching lives and training young people who will make a difference in our world for Christ's sake. Your leadership has provided for remarkable even miraculous things to take place at William Carey. William C. O's passion for more than a slogan and for you it has become a living reality. It has been my blessing to see the Lord bless the school through your leadership and for the school to bless Mississippi Baptists through its influence.

To the Faculty, Students, Alumni, and Friends thank you for all you have done during these 50 years in staying faithful to the school, the man for whom the school was named, and most of all the Lord, who has so graciously provided, protected, and blessed you. We join as partners for the future and pray that God is going to mighty continue to use William Carey College and Mississippi Baptists to keep the witness of Jesus strong, true, and touching the entire world.

Thankfully yours,

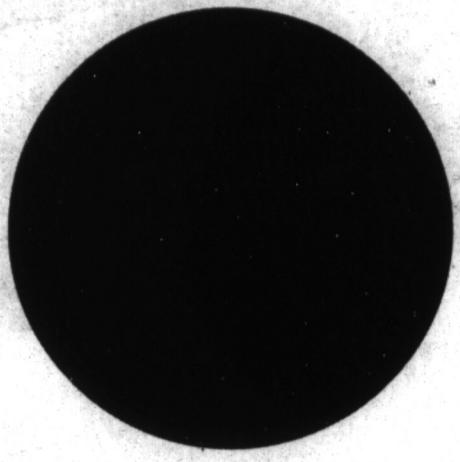
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Jim Futrel

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invited to attend the  
*Jubilee Appreciation Reception*

Tuesday, October 26, 2004  
4:30-6:30 p.m.

Christian Life Center  
First Baptist Church, Jackson



# "CELEBRATING HIS GLORIOUS DESIGN"

—William Carey, D.D.

## WILLIAM CAREY COLLEGE 1954-2004

### A Name Worthy of a College

Many colleges derive their name from a place or a benefactor. William Carey College draws strength from a name that marks its commitment to the highest standards of Christian scholarship.

The life of William Carey, D. D. (1761-1834) defines the mission of William Carey College.

Carey was devoted to a diversity of endeavors that characterize the practice of Christian faith in the modern world.

He was a missionary, evangelist, educator, reformer, linguist, scientist and businessman. As such, his life and work offer a model for operation of a Baptist college.

### Identifying Facts Regarding William Carey

#### Missionary Emphasis

- Born 1761, self-educated cobbler and pastor from the English midlands.
- Heralded the formation of the Baptist Missionary Society in 1792 with his watchword "Expect great things; attempt great things."
- Wrote missions pamphlet *An Enquiry into the Obligations of Christians to Use Means for the Conversion of the Heathens* (1792).
- Served as a missionary in India from 1793 until his death in 1834.
- Converted thousands of Hindus and Muslims to Christianity.
- Established Baptist mission stations throughout southern Asia.

#### Christian Social Reform

- Campaigned against caste social distinctions.
- Worked to secure prohibition of infant sacrifice and widow-burning.

#### Linguistic Diligence

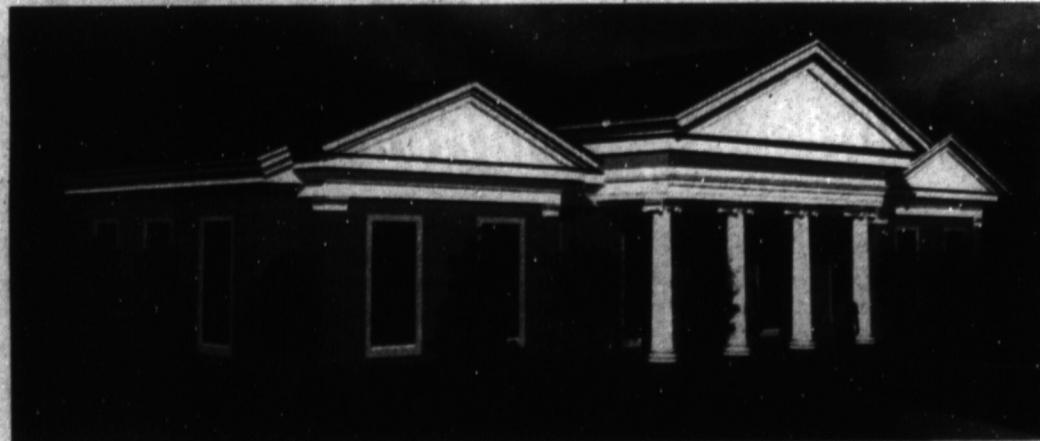
- Published grammars and dictionaries of several Indian languages.
- Served as professor of Bengali and Sanskrit at Fort William College, Calcutta.



Carey and Pundit Mritunjaya engaged in translation.

#### Scientific Achievement

- Edited two important botanical works, *Hortus Bengalensis* (1814) and *Flora Indica* (1820, 1824).
- Founded the Agricultural and Horticultural Society of India (1820).
- Became fellow of prestigious Linnaean Society of London.



The Center for Study of the Life and Work of William Carey, D.D. (1761-1834) will be housed in Donnell Hall, as shown in the architectural rendering above.

#### Business Acumen

- Helped to start savings banks in India.
- Brought one of the first steam engines to India.
- Published India's first periodical, *The Friend of India*, which later became a major newspaper, *The Statesman*.

#### Educational Striving

- Supervised printing of Bible in numerous Indian dialects.
- Founded Serampore College (1818).
- Pioneered the education of Indian women.
- Awarded the Doctor of Divinity degree by Brown University (1806).

# Carey Historical Highlights

## 1954-2004

### 1954-1963

In 1954-55, under the leadership of President I. E. Rouse, there were 26 faculty and 361 students. The college offered three degrees: the Bachelor of Arts, the Bachelor of Science, and the Bachelor of Music. Nine new buildings were constructed during this period 1954-1963.

#### Highlights

1954—First dormitory for male students, Lawrence Hall, constructed. With the new dormitory came the beginning of male students living on campus.

1956—Dr. J. Ralph Noonkester is inaugurated as the second president of William Carey College. Dr. Donald Winters became chairman of the department of music and a major in Church Music is added.

1957—I.E. Rouse Library is constructed and dedicated in February of 1958.

1958—Accreditation is granted by the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools.



### 1964-1973

By the fall of 1964, there are 683 students and over 50 full-time faculty. There are still three degrees offered through the seven academic divisions. There are now pre-professional programs in law, medicine, medical technology, and optometry. New construction continues with a music building, cafeteria, dormitory for men, and business building.

#### Highlights

1964—William Carey College leads all Southern Baptist colleges in the number of alumni serving as missionaries.

1965—Carey is the first private college in Mississippi to comply with the Civil Rights Compliance Pledge and the first to admit black students.

1969—The college acquires the prestigious Mather School of Nursing in New Orleans and offers a bachelor's degree in nursing. The nursing program in New Orleans is affiliated with the Southern Baptist Hospital. The School of Music is now a full member of the National Association of Schools of Music.



1969—The Crusader baseball team wins the NAIA national baseball championship.

1972—The right to grant master's degrees is approved in December when the college is given Level III status by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

### 1974-1983

The college now offers seven degrees: the Bachelor of Arts, the Bachelor of Science, the Bachelor of Fine Arts, the Bachelor of Science in Nursing, the Bachelor of Music, the Master of Education, and the Master of Music. The academic areas are organized into the School of Arts and Sciences, the School of Music, the School of Nursing, and the Graduate Division. In 1974 there are 72 full-time faculty and a student enrollment of 1,067.

#### Highlights

1976—The college purchases the campus of the Gulf Coast Military Academy in Gulfport and begins a full program. Bobbie Wood, Miss Carey College, becomes Miss Mississippi.

1977—The music therapy program is granted accreditation by the National Association for Music Therapy. Carey celebrates its 75th anniversary and awards honorary doctorates to Eudora Welty, Leontyne Price, and Lucile Parker.

1978—The School of Nursing is granted accreditation by the National League of Nursing. A specialist program in education is approved.



1981—A Master of Arts in counseling is begun with concentrations in guidance counseling, vocational guidance counseling, psychometry, and Christian counseling.

1982—Dianne Evans becomes Miss Mississippi and 2nd alternate to Miss America.

1983—Wanda Geddie becomes Miss Mississippi and 3rd alternate to Miss America.

### 1984-1993

In addition to the degrees offered in 1974, there are now the Bachelor of Science in Business, the Master of Business Administration, the Educational Specialist, the Master of Arts in Counseling Psychology, and the Master of Science in Counseling Psychology. There are four schools and two academic divisions: the School of Arts and Sciences, the School of Business Administration, the School of Music, the School of Nursing, the Graduate Division, and the Division of Continuing Education. In 1984 there are 79 full-time faculty, and student enrollment has reached 1,746.

#### Highlights

1989—Dr. J. Ralph Noonkester retires after 34 years of service as president.

1990—Dr. James W. Edwards is inaugurated as the third William Carey College president. The college changes its academic calendar to a trimester system.

1990—The Department of Religion becomes the Owen and Elizabeth Cooper School of Missions and Biblical Studies.

### 1994-2003

There are now six schools: the School of Arts, Humanities, and Sciences, the School of Business, the School of Education and Psychology, the School of Missions and Biblical Studies, the School of Music, and the School of Nursing. There are seven undergraduate degrees, two graduate degrees, and 24 majors. In 1994 there are 95 full-time faculty with a student enrollment of 2,139.

#### Highlights

1998—Dr. Larry W. Kennedy is inaugurated as the fourth president. The School of Nursing is relocated to the campus of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

2000—The college establishes the Center for Study of the Life and Work of William Carey, D.D. (1761-1834).



2002—Enrollment of church vocation students reaches an all-time high of 247.

2002—The first new building since 1974 is completed: the Fall-Asbury School of Nursing on the Hattiesburg campus.

### 2004

The sixth decade following the naming of William Carey College begins with a record enrollment of 2786. There are 112 full-time faculty.

Two soccer fields and intramural field are opened.

Major renovations are underway on the Hattiesburg campus.

Smith Education Hall, a baseball complex, and a new nursing building in New Orleans are under construction.

Dr. Larry Kennedy is awarded the prestigious Hattiesburg Hub Award.



*"Expecting great things from God;  
Attempting great things for God."*

*"I am proud and honored to be acknowledged as a William Carey graduate. William Carey prepared me as a nurse to not only provide the physical needs of people, but also their emotional and spiritual needs. William Carey will always be special to me for not only the excellent education I received, but also for strengthening me as a Christian to be a better wife, mother and nurse."*

—Kim May McDaniel, '91  
RN, BSN

Intensive Care Unit  
Natchez Regional Medical Center

*"I cherish the time I had as a student at William Carey College. I was not only challenged intellectually, but also was given opportunities to lead and serve. It was at Carey that I met my wife, Pam, and together we now serve at the college that enriched our lives in such an immeasurable way. It is such a joy to be an alumnus and employee of a college that is booming with new life."*

—Terry Dale Cruse, '03  
Assistant Director of Admissions  
William Carey College

*"William Carey College has had a lasting influence on my life and my life's work. Dr. and Mrs. Donald Winters were outstanding leaders in the music department. They cared about me and what I was being taught. They definitely made a difference in my life and inspired me to more and greater things. The Christian influence of the faculty and students was so helpful in my journey. I could never be where I am had it not been for William Carey College."*

—Ray Burdeshaw, '64  
Director  
Office of Worship Leadership/  
Church Music  
Alabama Baptist Convention

*"Expect great things from God.  
Attempt great things for God."*

—William Carey

## Mississippi Woman's College Becomes William Carey College

According to an editorial in the *Hattiesburg American* in 1929, Mississippi Woman's College was founded along different lines than typical modern colleges where more attention was given to sports and social life than to books and social service. "It is quite evident that the institution is succeeding remarkably well in instilling its ideals in the minds and hearts of its graduates." The college, for the most part, grew and thrived during the decades of the 20s and 30s until the Great Depression took its toll on the college, just as it did on the nation as a whole. With fewer students able to afford any school, with the endowment being exhausted, the tight economy, the war, and the "general situation looking so bleak," Dr. W. E. Holcomb, president of Mississippi Woman's College, resigned in 1940, and the college closed its doors. The buildings and grounds were used as a housing project for officers of Camp Shelby.

In 1946 and 1947 the entire college plant was renovated, modernized, and largely refurnished. Dr. I. E. Rouse, pastor of Fifth Avenue Baptist Church (now

Temple Baptist, Hattiesburg), became president of the reopened Mississippi Woman's College. Enrollment figures in the late forties remain something of a mystery, believed by most to have hovered around 80. With such a skeletal enrollment, the college was brought under review by the Mississippi Baptist Convention in 1950. By a one-vote margin, Mississippi Woman's College remained alive. Three years later in 1953, with enrollment still hovering around the 100 mark, the Mississippi Baptist Convention voted coeducational status for the institution and authorized the trustees to search for a new name.

According to tradition, President Rouse meditated in the forest adjacent to the college and felt inspired to name the college William Carey, in honor of a brilliant eighteenth-century English cobbler-linguist who went to India as the pioneer of the modern missionary movement. Thus, with a new name and with the construction of a new men's dormitory (Lawrence Hall) in 1954, the present state of William Carey College was begun.

*"God used a pigskin to bring me to Heaven. I came to William Carey in 1954 to play football. Little did I know that on October 14, 1954 I would make life's greatest score when Dr. Andy Tate led me to Jesus! In the two years Carey had a football team, 22 out of 33 players crossed the same goal line into eternal life!"*

—Billy Crosby '56  
Evangelist  
Shreveport, LA

*"The knowledge I gained during my years at the School of Business formed the strong foundation that has allowed me to build a successful career. On a personal level, the international friends I made taught me to appreciate diversity in all walks of life and instilled a desire in me to travel, explore, and experience other cultures."*

—Melanie Ward Butler, '84  
Partner  
PriceWaterhouseCoopers LLP  
London, United Kingdom

*"If I were writing an autobiography, there would be at least one chapter on 'The Carey Years'. The impact of William Carey College in shaping my life is not incidental to who I am today. From the love and nurture of professors like Dr. Milton Wheeler and the late Dr. Donald Winters, to the many friendships forged in the course of campus life which remain to this day, I am deeply grateful for my Carey heritage of faith, learning, and life. William Carey College is an outstanding institution, and I have long been extremely proud to be an alumnus. Today, more than ever, I believe in her mission, and I am excited about her future."*

—Dr. Randy Von Kanel, '75  
Pastor, First Baptist Church  
Tupelo, MS

## JUST FOR THE RECORD



**Children of Bethesda Church, Terry**

The children of Bethesda Church, Terry, raised over \$700 during VBS for the Baptist Children's Village. Barry Boquet is pastor and Dody Ogletree is the VBS director.

**Edwards Church, Raymond**, held a summer children's party. The children enjoyed Joyful the Clown, balloon animals, hats, stories, and lessons.

**First Church, Madison**, ordained six new deacons September 19. Pictured (from left) are Wayne Jackson, Mike Carraway, Robert Washington, Lonnie Clifton, Doug Taylor, and Trey DeLoach.



**Children of Edwards Church, Raymond**

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Poplar Springs Baptist Church

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\$1.00 donation

Walk-ins are welcome, but reservations are recommended. Not recommended for children under 10 years of age.

October 27, 28, & 30, 2004

**JUDGEMENT HOUSE**

**FINAL DESTINATION**



**Grace Church Deacon Ordination, Philadelphia**

**Clarke-Venable Church, Decatur**, recently ordained Neil Marsh and Graham Clarke as deacons. Mark Vincent is pastor.

**Grace Church, Philadelphia**, ordained Shayne Martin and Kenny Tubby as deacons August 29. Pictured (from left) are Delinda Tubby, Tubby, Chris Vowell, Martin, and Gamble Martin.

**First Church, Kosciusko**, held a deacon ordination September 12 for Gerry Taylor and Gary Cochran. Pictured (from left) are Taylor, Julie Taylor, Barry C. Corbett, pastor, Leigh Cochran, and Cochran.

**Hopewell Church, Little Rock**, will hold a Building Fund Fall Fundraiser and Celebration October 23. Spaghetti plates will be sold for \$5 from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. A bake sale begins at 11 a.m. and an auction at 1 p.m. For more information or to purchase tickets, call (601) 986-2823 or (601) 986-2358.

**Poplar Springs, Mendenhall**, will hold Judgement House October 27 and 28 from 6:30-10 p.m., and October 30 from 5-10 p.m. A \$1 donation will be received at the door. Call (601) 847-2555 for reservations.

**Springfield Church, Morton**, recently ordained Phillip Woolery as a deacon. Frank Lay, pastor, preached the ordination sermon. Carl Woolery led in the ordination prayer.

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## Correction

On page one of the October 7 issue of The Baptist Record, Archie Herrin, second vice-president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, was mistakenly described as being eligible for election to a second one-year term at the upcoming annual meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. In fact, Herrin is completing his second term as second vice-president and is not eligible for re-election. The Baptist Record regrets the error.

[www.mbc.org](http://www.mbc.org)



**First Church Deacon Ordination, Kosciusko**



**Deacons of First Church, Madison**



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## JUST FOR THE RECORD

**Mt. Olivet Church, Scott County**, held Super Saturday Bible School July 31. They had an enrollment of 44.

**Heritage Heights Church, Laurel,** ordained Kenny Walters to the ministry September 12. Pictured (from left) are Walters and Ken Regan, pastor.

**Meadowood Church, Amory,** licensed Dave Best to the ministry September 19. He attended NOBTS. Lloyd Sweatt is pastor.

**Donald C. Henderson** is available for pulpit supply

preaching and interim pastoring. He may be reached at 1497 Seaton Road, Raymond, MS 39154, (601) 857-2843.

The children and youth bible drillers from Mt. Zion Church, Columbus, recently went to the state drills. Members of the children's team were Amber Cheezum and Sarah Hern with Alison Bedsole as the leader. Members of the youth team were Kacie Hawkins, Kimberly Hollis, Leigh Hutcheson, Ally Pfeiffer, Ashley Silas, and Emily Sullivan with Martha Hutcheson as the leader. Pfeiffer continued to the quick drills in Jackson.

**Brewer Church, Shannon,** hosted a Lee Association

Senior Adult Revival August 30-September 1 with P.J. Scott preaching and Bill Britton leading music, both of First Church, Olive Branch. The revival averaged over 100 in attendance. The seniors were treated to lunch the closing day. Pictured (from left) are Marc Howard, AMD, Arlis Nichols, and Sean Turor, pastor at Brewer.

**Dumas Church, Dumas,** licensed Chris Shinall and Richie Hatcher to the ministry September 5. Roy Bostick, interim pastor, presented certificates to Shinall,

a graduate of Blue Mountain College who has served as part time youth minister since January 2003, and Hatcher, a current student at BMC.



Kenny Walters & Ken Regan, pastor



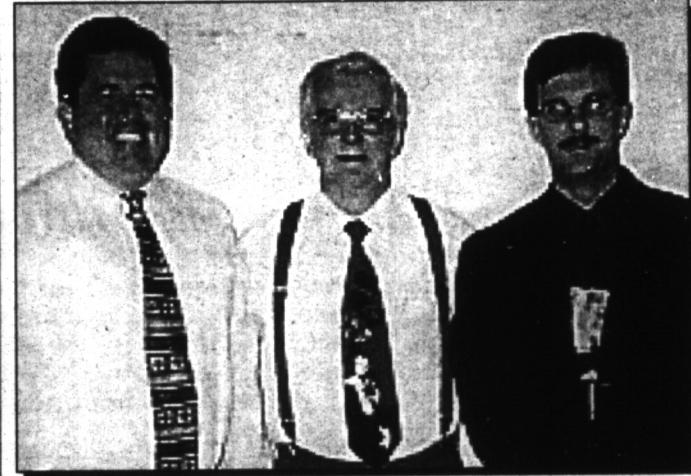
Dave Best & Lloyd Sweatt, pastor



Mt. Olivet Church Super Saturday Bible School, Scott County



Dumas Church Ministry Ordination, Dumas



Marc Howard, Arlis Nichols, & Sean Turor, pastor

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4. Item 15b., Copies not Distributed, must include (1) newsstand copies originally stated on Form 3541, and returned to the publisher, (2) estimated returns from news agents, and (3) copies for office use, leftovers, spoiled, and all other copies not distributed.	
5. If the publication had Periodicals authorization as a general or requester publication, this Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation must be published; it must be printed in any issue in October or, if the publication is not published during October, the first issue printed after October.	
6. In Item 16, indicate the date of the issue in which the Statement of Ownership will be published.	
7. Item 17 must be signed.	
Failure to file or publish a statement of ownership may lead to suspension of Periodicals authorization.	

FPS Form 3526, October 1999 (Reverse)

## JUST FOR THE RECORD

Thirty youth and adults of Mt. Olive Church, Baldwyn, went to Williamsburg, Ky., June 26-July 3



VBS Participants of First Church, Charleston



VBS Participants of Highland Church, Senatobia



VBS Participants of Zion Hill Church, Liberty

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Team at Cumberland College. They also helped with community work. The construction team worked with Outreach Ministries, also from the college, on a house for an elderly lady.

**ZION HILL CHURCH, LIBERTY**, held VBS recently with an average attendance of 95 children, youth, and workers. Linda Sterling was the director. Robert Toney is pastor.

VBS children at **HIGHLAND CHURCH, SENATOBIA**, delivered backpacks to HOPE Ministries recently. VBS offering was used to purchase 100 backpacks for area school children. Pictured (from left) are BJ Dulin, Jonathan Dulin, Chase Bulliner, Asa Bulliner, Joe B. Lance, Noah Lance, Perry Lafayette, Georgia Dulin, and (back) Dorothy Williams.

Far Out Far East Rickshaw Rally Racing to the Son VBS was held at **FAITH CHURCH, WEST POINT**, July 26-30. Total enrollment was 50 with one profession of faith.

Participants in the Rickshaw Rally VBS at **First Church, Charleston**, share the musical score at the

week's finale. Anne Baker and Wanda Renfro were directors and Pam Hodges lead music. Average attendance included 105 children.

The Agricultural Missions Fellowship meeting will be held October 25 at 3 p.m. at First Church, Jackson. Reservations are not necessary. Retiring

missionary James Young will be speaking. Young and his wife, Guinevere, served as strategy coordinators in Bangladesh and are in their final stateside assignment. A report on all projects currently supported by the membership will be given. An election for new year officers will conclude the meeting. All Mississippi Baptists interested in agricultural missions are invited. This meeting is held in conjunction with the 2004 Lay Missions Conference.



Mt. Olive Church Construction Mission Team, Baldwyn



Mt. Olive Church VBS Missions Team, Baldwyn

**THE BAPTIST CHILDREN'S VILLAGE** has an immediate opening for the position of child care worker which is available for a single person or to a married couple. Good salary and benefits. Please call 601-922-2242 or go to [www.baptistchildrensvillage.com](http://www.baptistchildrensvillage.com).

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MISSISSIPPI  
BAPTISTS



The 1st-6th grade GAs of North Carrollton Church,



GAs of North Carrollton Church, Carrollton



Fredonia Church, New Albany



Noteburning of Twin Lakes Church, Madison



GAs of Anchor Church, Water Valley



Pine Grove Church Perfect Attendance Candidates, Picayune

## JUST FOR THE RECORD

North Carrollton, sponsored the Angel Tree as their Christmas in August project. Items collected will be distributed in December. Pictured (from left, front) are Ann Marie McClain, Maggie Lloyd, Laynee Claire Marchant, Jordan Haynes, (back) Julia McClellan, Mauri Suggs, and Jade Wrenn. GA leaders are Sissy Lloyd and Debbie Clark.

Rome Church, Rome, ordained Michael Mitchell to the ministry August 29. Mitchell currently serves as pastor of Rome. Pictured (from left) are Betty Davis, Christopher Mitchell, Briana Mitchell, Roxanne Mitchell, Linda Patterson, Billy Patterson, and Lester Jeffers.

A group from Fredonia Church, New Albany, did repair work and cleaning at the Baptist Children's Village, Independence, September 11. Pictured are some of the participants.

Pine Grove Church, Picayune, recently presented perfect attendance certificates for Sunday School. Reggie Bridges is pastor. Pictured (from left, front) are Cole Peterson, two years; Matthew Mitchell, one year; Caitlyn Spiers, one year; (back) Blaine Cochran, two years; Jonathan Mitchell, six years; Abigail Bridges, one year; and Katie Prevot, two years.

Branch Church, Morton, held a GA recognition service, a luau, August 14. Each girl completed her grade level in world ventures and was presented a charm. Pictured (from left, front) are Karleigh Mahaffey, (back) Brittany Tagert, Casey Torrence, and Jessica Tagert.

Bethany Church, Slate Springs, held Bible Drill recently. Pictured (from left) are Jennifer Holder, Jo Ellen Doss, youth leader, Andrea Doss, Donna Criss, Marilyn Williams, Dot Hardin, Joy Macon, and Sylvia Clark, adult leader. Raymond Grabert is pastor.

The GAs of Anchor Church, Water Valley, were honored recently with an award ceremony. The GAs are pictured with their leader and pastor.

Mesa Church, Tylertown, partnered with the Seamen's Ministry, Pascagoula, through their VBS offering. Daphne Freeman presented a check to Adrian Turner and Tom Miller, DOM, Jackson County Association.

The GAs of Salem Church, Tylertown, held a Support

Our Troops ceremony recently. They received a patriotic patch created by their leader, Kathy Martin. Pictured (from left) are Morgan Knight, Cheyanne Andrews, Lexie Brumfield, Courtney Bush, Rachel Bond, and their mothers.

Twin Lakes Church, Madison, held a noteburning September 15 for their new sanctuary. Pictured (from left) are Hugh Smith, pastor, Frances Green, Dave Moore, Kaye Pryor, and Carolyn deVeer.



GAs of Branch Church, Morton



GAs of Salem Church, Tylertown



Bible Drill participants of Bethany Church, Slate Springs



Seaman's Ministry & Mesa Church VBS participants, Tylertown



Ministry Ordination of Michael Mitchell at Rome Church, Rome

## FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

### Finding New Purpose

Luke 4:42-5:11

**By Geneva England**

One of my former students sacrificed a comfortable pastorate in order to answer God's call to train indigenous pastors in the Central American area. He and his young family left America, family, and a comfortable living and are now enduring many hardships to follow God's call. Yet I heard him and his eldest daughter say that there is no place they had rather be than in their new setting following God's will. His work is touching many lives for the Lord. This modern-day example somewhat parallels the gospel call in the first century when Jesus called his first disciples (cf. Lk. 5:1-11; Matt. 4:18-22; Jn. 1:35-42).

Jesus began his ministry in Galilee, a thriving fishing and farming area in northern Israel, where He traveled around

preaching, healing the sick, and casting out demons. When the crowds tried to detain Him, He announced that He must preach the good news of the Kingdom of God to other cities (Lk. 4:42)—the good news being that He is the sacrifice for our sin debts and that through faith in Him, we can be saved.

Jesus moved to the shores of the Sea of Galilee, where Simon [later named Peter by Jesus] and his brother Andrew had a profitable fishing business. They owned a boat and nets and could financially afford to travel to where John the Baptist was preaching (Jn. 1:35-42).

Traditionally, young men aspiring to learn to be clerics would attach themselves to learned rabbis; therefore, these fishermen might have been surprised to hear Jesus calling them



England

had not Andrew and Simon Peter earlier heard John the Baptist proclaim Jesus as "the Lamb of God" (Jn. 1:36). Andrew heard first and then told Simon Peter; together they listened to Jesus teach (vs. 40-41). Both Andrew and Simon Peter had heard John the Baptist preach that salvation through Christ was imminent; thus, Andrew assuredly told Simon Peter, "We have found the Messiah" (vs. 41). It didn't take long before Jesus extended His call to James and John, the sons of Zebedee (Matt. 4:21).

As soon as Jesus reached the boats, Peter did not hesitate to follow Jesus' instructions to move the boat away from the shoreline so that He could more easily teach the large crowd. Later, Jesus instructed Peter to move the boat into the deeper water to fish; Peter obeyed even though he reminded Jesus that his fishing crew had worked all night without catching anything (Lk. 5:3-4).

This large catch of fish symbolized the future kingdom harvest these four key disciples would begin through the help of the Holy Spirit, for Jesus promised to make them "fishers of men" (Matt. 5:19). By answering God's call, they became more than just disciples; they became apostles commissioned for a specific purpose. Jesus knew the good news of salvation must be spread not only to the Jews but also to the Gentiles, so He began preparing the hearts of the disciples. Once they accepted this call, "He gave them power against unclean spirits... and to heal all manner of sickness" (Matt. 10:1). It was then they were called apostles (v. 2).

Along with Jesus' announcement, "I must preach the good news of the kingdom of God," (Lk. 4:43, NIV), He taught that the kingdom of God abides "within" (Lk. 17:21), and is "at hand" (Mk. 1:15). According to the Holman Illustrated Bible Dictionary, "The Kingdom of God," "is 'already' present but 'not yet' fully complete, both a present and future reality. The

kingdom was inaugurated in the incarnation, life, ministry, death, and resurrection of Jesus. People presently find and enter God's kingdom... [but they] currently dwell alongside inhabitants of the kingdom of darkness."

Today, Christians must also answer God's call. Some He will call to faraway lands, while others will fulfill God's purpose at home. Just as the disciples were told to begin their witnessing "in Jerusalem," then in "all Judea and Samaria," and finally "to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8), witnesses today must be willing to follow Christ's call whether at home or abroad.

Where does God need you? He definitely needs all of us. He uses those who allow Him to direct their daily walks to accomplish His purposes. If God calls you "to the ends of the earth," GO. Yet here at home, America itself is fast becoming a needy mission field. We Christians must join hands to save our beloved country!

*England is a member of First Church, Grenada.*

### FORGIVENESS IS BASED ON FAITH, LUKE 7:48-50

"Your sins are forgiven," Jesus said to the woman. Those sitting at the table questioned Jesus authority to take away anyone's sins. Simon and his group of Pharisees were convinced forgiveness of sins was attained by doing enough of the right kind of things to earn forgiveness. Forgiveness, to them, was a merit an individual had to deserve. It was offensive to the ears of self-righteous Pharisees to think forgiveness with God was an undeserved gift.

"Your faith has saved you; go in peace," Christ said to the woman. No reaction of the Pharisees is recorded. They probably begged to differ with Jesus. The Truth, however, was and still is the truth. A jar of expensive perfume will not buy forgiveness. A changed heart, and faith in God will cleanse us and transform us.

No good deed should be considered inappropriate to those of us who have experienced the grace of God. We will never be more extravagant to God than He has already been toward us. He gave a far more expensive gift in giving His Son to die for our sins.

*Walters is member of Temple Church, Hattiesburg.*

## EXPLORE THE BIBLE

### Express Gratitude to Jesus

Luke 7:36-50

**By James Walters**

If Jesus was invited there were few social occasions He didn't attend. Several events are mentioned in the New Testament. Levi, the tax collector, gave a party to which Jesus came (Luke 5). A wedding feast in Cana included Jesus and His disciples on their invitation list and they came (John 2). Jesus even supplied more refreshments for the wedding when the wine ran out.

Luke 7:36 records the story which took place at a banquet in Jerusalem. A certain Pharisee, Simon, asked Christ to be part of a gathering of friends. Christ came for the meal. If one chooses they may compare and contrast this story as it appears in each of the Gospels — Lk. 7:36-50; Mt. 26:6-13; Mk. 14:3-9; Jn. 12:1-8.

**GRATITUDE EXPRESSES LOVE, LUKE 7:36-38**

The name of the woman who came to anoint Jesus' feet is not given, but everyone at the feast



Walters

knew who she was. She had not been invited, but she came anyway. She came with a purpose. The brokenhearted lady had a gift to share, but to that point in her life she had kept the lid on her alabaster jar of expensive perfume. She had the gift, but it had not yet been given.

Perhaps the perfume had been in her family for years, hidden away in some safe place for just the right occasion. For as long as it sat on the shelf it was an unopened, unused, unenjoyed gift. People can be like that jar. They can sit on a shelf collecting dust, unopened. The pity is not that they are worthless, because they are precious. The pity isn't that they haven't the capacity to be a blessing, for they possess tremendous capacities to bless. The real pity is that those capacities are sometimes relegated to exist in the shadows of disappointment, bitterness, or resentment. Life happens! When it does we sometimes tend to

shut down. People like Christ who minister to us open us up.

### LOVE GROWS OUT OF FORGIVENESS, LUKE 7:39-43

It's sad to acknowledge that the Simons of this world will never be anointed with a blessing from those they refuse to embrace in fellowship. Simon and his fellow Pharisees were even a bit frustrated that such a woman would invite herself to their banquet. The sinful woman went straight to Jesus, washed His feet with her tears, and dried them with her hair. Then she anointed His feet with the costly perfume.

"If Jesus truly were a prophet," Simon reasoned, "He would not let her touch Him." Simon misunderstood the situation. Jesus had touched her life in some way he did not know. Her response was appropriate. Jesus knew Simon was confused. He loved Simon as much as He loved the sinful woman. What is sometimes so amazing about Jesus is not that He loved sinners but that He loved Pharisees too. Jesus told a parable to help Simon see the situation with the

woman as it truly was. "Two men were in debt to the same man," Jesus began. "Neither could pay off their debt. One owed fifty days wages, the other owed five hundred. The creditor released both of them from their indebtedness. Which of the two would you think was the most thankful?" Jesus asked. "The one who was forgiven five hundred days wages, of course," Simon answered. "You are right," Jesus said. "Because this woman's sins were so great her forgiveness has brought about repentance and love at a deeper level."

What happened with the sinful woman hopefully occurs every time an individual grasps the enormity of the grace of God.

### LOVE IS MORE THAN RESPECT, LUKE 7:44-47

The behavior of Simon had exposed an inner attitude lacking in respect to Christ. The woman's behavior had expressed more than respect. She loved Christ and demonstrated her love. An extravagant gift was poured out on Jesus. Public display and extravagance were appropriate. We understand that she was not intending to call attention to herself.

## Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles or attachments will be accepted via telephone or fax. Photographs are welcome and may be submitted electronically. Please mail or fax to the address below and must be accompanied by a self-addressed envelope.



All news items and photographs are subject to editorial review. News items and photographs are to be submitted in black-and-white only. Please include a self-addressed envelope and a postcard for return of material. Deadlines are as follows: news items, one week prior to publication date; photographs, three weeks prior to publication date.

# Graham: weak voice, powerful message

**GREETING GRAHAM** — Billy Graham (left) and Sherman Barnett (center), director of the Heart of America Billy Graham Crusade, are greeted by Carl Peterson, president of Kansas City Chiefs, upon Graham's Oct. 6 survey of Arrowhead Stadium, site of the Oct. 7-10 crusade. (BP photo by Tim Umphrey)

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP) — There wasn't much power in Billy Graham's voice at the opening night of the October 7-10 Heart of America Billy Graham Crusade in Kansas City's Arrowhead Stadium, but that didn't stop the 85-year-old Southern Baptist evangelist from preaching a powerful message.

Graham, weakened by age and a pelvic fracture sustained in a fall at his North Carolina home last May, delivered a short sermon from John 3 about starting life over again. Noticeably absent from the presentation was the strong, steady voice Graham has

displayed over the years in preaching to 80 million people worldwide during his career.

Graham, with his silver hair attracting the light from the stage spotlights, began slumping 15-minutes into his message and finished the sermon seated. His son Franklin, seated on the platform behind his father, helped him get seated when he began to slump. A specially built podium had been prepared that enabled him to preach while seated.

Referring to the physical ailments now buffeting his life, Graham observed, "I've never preached a sermon sitting down." The

crowd responded with applause. He seemed to regain some strength after sitting down and continued his appeal for people to be saved. "Jesus died on the cross for you," he said. "He shed his blood for you."

The evangelist's weakened state did not hamper the results of his message as hundreds of people streamed onto the rain-soaked football field to respond to Graham's appeal to accept Christ as Lord and Savior. Trained counselors recorded 704 decisions.

"Some people are ready to give up on life," Graham said near the end of his 20-minute message. "Two people have told me in the last two days they are ready to give up. Jesus makes it possible to have a new life."

Heavy rains blanketed the Kansas City area throughout the day and continued to fall as Cliff Barrows, longtime Graham associate, led the opening hymn. Crusade officials announced the first night crowd at 7,750.

The Kansas City crusade will be followed by a crusade in Los Angeles in November and in New York next June.

"I've had a burden on my heart for this area," Graham told the crowd at the opening of his message. "Kansas City has been on my heart for five years. I believe this [crusade] is an answer to prayer."

Meeting with media representatives the day before the crusade, Graham said he had spent most of the year in bed resting, continuing his recuperation from surgeries to repair fractures suffered in two falls. The last fall forced a postponement of the Kansas City crusade, which was originally scheduled for June 17-20.

Crusade director Sherman Barnett said the postponement had both a negative and positive impact. "From the negative side," Barnett said, "we had to reschedule everything and reprint all promotional materials. On the positive side, the delay gave us a little more time to encourage more churches to become involved in the crusade." The rescheduling also drove the crusade budget up one million dollars, to more than five million dollars.

Mike Kycek of Winona, Minn., said he traveled to Kansas City just to see Graham and hear what he has to say. "Anytime he speaks, it is a message from God," Kycek said.



## Bibliocipher

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XQ X YNKV FJCZ RJM  
VNHFYCR FYIAE, NIZ RV  
WVCXVKV IJF, YTL EYNCC  
RV WVCXVKV, XQ X  
FVCC RJM JQ YVNKVICR  
FYXIAE?

GJYI FYHVV: FLVCKV

Clue: I = N

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle:  
John 4:24

## School resolution to resurface at state conventions

ALEXANDRIA, Va. (ABP) — Although a resolution urging Christians to pull their children from public schools failed to gain approval of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) last summer, the issue is expected to come to a vote in as many as 10 state Baptist conventions this fall.

T.C. Pinckney of Virginia and Bruce Shortt of Texas were unable to muster support from their denomination's resolutions committee to bring their proposal before voting messengers last June in Indianapolis. Generating considerable pre-convention publicity, the resolution decried the secular condition of public or "government" schools, as Pinckney describes them. The measure urged parents to "remove their children from 'godless' and 'anti-Christian' government schools and see to it they receive a thoroughly Christian education."

The issue is expected to resurface at nine state Baptist conventions and one multi-state convention, according to Exodus Mandate, a group advocating a Christian depar-

ture from public education. Those state conventions are in California, Florida, Illinois, Missouri, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia. The Baptist Convention of New England, representing Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont, is also expected to have the resolution introduced at its annual meeting.

Last June, the SBC resolutions committee declined to act on the anti-schools resolution, saying to do so would "usurp" the responsibility of parents to decide how to educate their children. Pinckney's attempt to add the anti-school language to an SBC resolution on secularization in America failed on a show-of-hands vote.

Pinckney, a retired brigadier general from the U.S. Air Force and a former second vice president of the Southern Baptist Convention, said recently he does not expect the resolution to pass in even one state convention. But raising the issue is necessary, he said, to build aware-

ness for the cause. "To deal with an issue like this takes quite a while because you're dealing with basic assumptions that people have made," he said.

Pinckney, who went through the public school system and sent his three children to public schools, said he used to be one of those people who saw no real harm in public education. He no longer believes that, he said, and his 12 grandchildren are all home-schooled. "We are criticizing the overall system of government schools as not being biblical," he said.

Larry Reagan, a Tennessee pastor, said he and another co-sponsor are revising the language of the resolution so it's not as confrontational as the one rejected by the SBC. He will bring it to the Tennessee Baptist Convention's annual meeting Nov. 9-10 in Sevierville. Reagan's goal is also to build awareness, and encourage more Christian churches to start schools.

Robert Dreyfus, who will introduce the resolution at the Florida Baptist State Convention's annual meeting

Nov. 8-9 in Jacksonville, said public schools have failed on the academic, moral and spiritual fronts. He sees little hope for change, citing federal and state legislation, an educational bureaucracy and teachers' unions as factors hindering meaningful reform.

An exodus of Christian students from the public school system can keep those children from drifting away from their faith in their adult lives, Dreyfus said. He said research by pollster George Barna has shown that as many as 88% of children from evangelical families enrolled in public schools will drop out of church in the two years following graduation.

Whether it results in a vote or not in any of these conventions isn't most important, Pinckney said. Just discussing the proposal will cause some Christians to think through the issue and realize, as Pinckney sees it, that sending their children to "government schools" is not what God has directed parents to do.